

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## VALIANT KNIGHT OF STEPNEY GREEN

### A HERO OF THE BOY SCOUTS

ROLAND HOUSE, the world-famous Scout settlement in the East End of London, named after one of the Movement's heroes, is being rebuilt and developed, after being badly damaged in the war; and the Foundation Stone of its new hall was recently laid by the Deputy Chief Scout.

The hero of Roland House was killed in battle before he could carry on the noble peace-time work he had planned. He was Capt Roland Philipps, MC, who originally bought the house in 1914 to benefit boys in the East End. Roland was the son of Lord St Davids, and he counted his wealth in how much he could serve his fellow-men; he was a friend to all.

As a very young man he was tremendously keen on the new Boy Scout Movement, and he became Assistant Commissioner for East London. He bought an old 18th-century mansion in Stepney Green—a relic of the East End's more spacious days—and here he planned a Headquarters for the boys, and here he intended to work hard for them himself.

Then came the First World War, and, of course, Roland Philipps went to the Front. He won the Military Cross. He gave his life at the age of 26 in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

### His Work Goes On

His friends were determined that his work for the East London boys should not come to an end, and, naming his house in Stepney Green after him, developed it as a Scout settlement. Generations of Scouts have subscribed funds to keep it going.

The cellar was transformed into an impressive chapel, dedicated to Francis of Assisi, considered the most scout-like of saints. At the end of the chapel are a knight in armour and a Rover in uniform, two small statues by a Hackney Rover, and between these is the sword of Roland Philipps.

In a little wooden recess is the wooden cross from his grave in

France, and here are his Military Cross and the other medals he won, his Scout badges, and his shoulder knot. His staff bears the emblems of the proficiency badges he won, for he would always pass a test himself before examining a Scout.

Fortunately, this quiet shrine was not destroyed by the bombs which so severely damaged Roland House.

However, the project that Roland Philipps began will rise again; for an extensive scheme for rebuilding and developing Roland House is now under way.

The spirit of Roland Philipps lives on!

## Where the Gorgonops Once Roamed

MILLIONS of years ago the Koup, in South Africa, was covered by huge forests and fast-moving streams, and peopled by such strange beasts as the pariasaurus, the gorgonops, and the dinosaur.

Today it is a waterless stretch of country between the Great Karroo and the North-west Cape. A few wandering tribes of bushmen and a handful of sheep farmers drag out a hard living.

Recently Dr L. B. Boonstra, head palaeontologist of the Cape Town Museum, paid a visit to the Koup, and spotted things that less observant visitors had failed to notice—strange bones and fossil remains.

Dr Boonstra put two and two together and the result was the gorgonops, the forerunners of the hyena and a scavenger in those far-off days. It is four feet high and eight feet long.

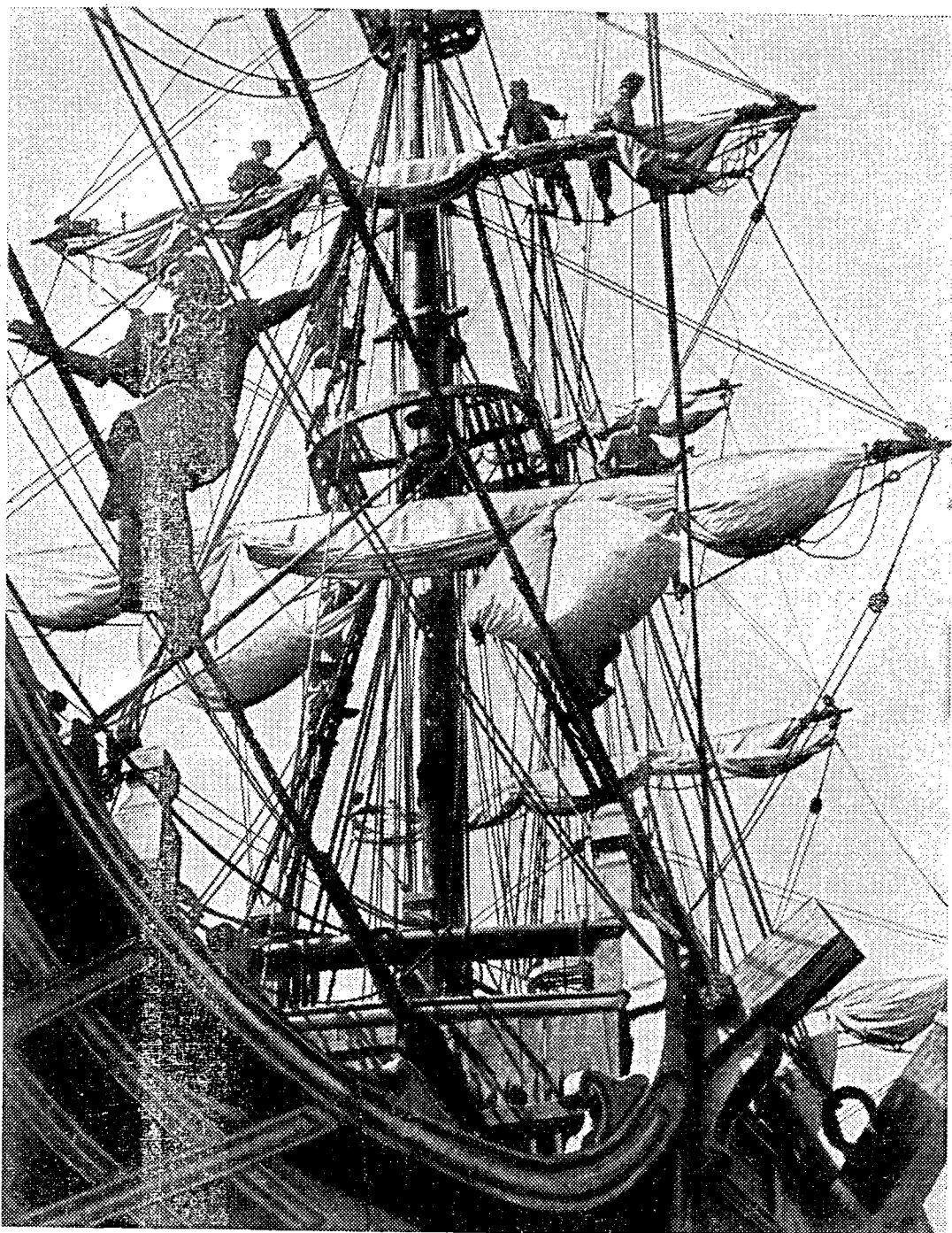
Then he got busy on the pariasaurus, a herbivorous creature that once floundered in the wet jungles of the Koup. Now he is looking for the fossil remains of dinosaurs, which were quite plentiful in those parts. Other finds have yet to be identified.

### I THANK YOU!

TEENAGER ANTHEA ASKEY is not likely to forget Australia's surf or celebrated Lifesavers. While bathing at Southport, in Queensland, Anthea got swept out in the Pacific surf, but was promptly rescued by a young Hercules belonging to the noble ranks of the Lifesavers.

Needless to say, to the gallant Lifesaver a sincere "I thank you" came from big-hearted Anthea, whose show in Australia is a great success.

## ABOARD THE HISPANIOLA



In the *Hispaniola* Jim Hawkins and his friends, Captain Smollett, Squire Trelawney, and Doctor Livesey, sailed for Treasure Island with a crew largely made up of pirates. A new film version of Robert Louis Stevenson's great adventure story, made in England by Walt Disney, is reviewed by our film critic on page 4.

## CROSSING CANADA BY CANOE

A 63-YEAR-OLD retired Presbyterian minister and a 17-year-old American high school student are following the trails of the Canadian pioneers—in reverse.

In an old 17-foot canoe the Revd John W. Beard and Joe Kirkwood, from Hood River, Oregon, set out recently to cross Canada by water. They started from Vancouver (in the American State of Washington) and have so far travelled to Edmonton, Alberta, by river, lake, and stream, passing through the Rocky Mountains. On parts of their journey they have had to

carry their canoe and camping equipment.

From Edmonton they are continuing their 3500 miles trip down the Saskatchewan River to The Pas, Manitoba, across Lake Winnipeg, and then via Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, the Great Lakes, and the Ottawa River to Montreal, where they will follow the St Lawrence downstream to Quebec.

This great journey will not be the end of canoeing for the Revd John Beard, however; he next intends to follow the River Jordan down to the Dead Sea in the same old canoe.

## Who Took the Prime Minister's Trousers?

SOMEBODY has a pair of trousers belonging to the Prime Minister of South Africa!

It all came out the other day in the House of Assembly when the Minister of Justice addressed members on the work of his department. He regretted that certain burglars had broken into the Premier's residence at Groote Schuur, and had stolen Dr Malan's trousers; and he warned men in South Africa not to hang their trousers over chairs at night and sleep with open windows as well.

## DRINK FOR ROVER



Michael Masterton, aged 23, offers a cooling drink to Rover, a Golden Retriever, in Hyde Park.



# Full Employment is an International Affair

*The important Economic and Social Council are holding their eleventh session at Geneva this week. The Council are responsible to the General Assembly of the United Nations for carrying out those branches of their work which most concern the prosperity and, therefore, the happiness of the people of the world as a whole. A CN correspondent writes:*

To understand the main task of the U.N Economic and Social Council we must realise that much of mankind's happiness and progress depends on the healthy state of what is known as our economy. Since the end of the war this idea has gained new recognition and strength in the field of international relations. It has become clear that the wide economic gulf between the nations always leads to trouble. The United Nations

Charter therefore made it the duty of us all to see that all nations move forward not only politically but also economically.

To discuss the ways and means whereby the economic conditions of mankind may get better year by year and the more advanced nations may help those which are less advanced is, briefly, the task of the Council. Now, of course, this is a very large task, and it would be wrong to think that the Council are actually able to carry out the proposals they agree upon.

## The Best Brains

What the Council can do is to help in getting together the best brains member States can spare, to collect all the information which Governments can send, to arrange discussions, and to help in drawing up lines of action which the Governments should follow if they wish their countries to thrive. Although we have not yet reached the stage where the Council can actually order a State to do or cease to do certain things, these discussions in Geneva are so vital that no country is likely to ignore them.

Take full employment, for instance. This is an extremely important question and will be a major topic in Geneva. The Council will have at their disposal dozens of reports from experts of all kinds recommending ways and means of keeping up the highest level of employment. Every Government must be appalled by the prospect of a multitude of unemployed, and therefore dissatisfied, citizens; the recommendations of the Council are, therefore, likely to be attentively listened to.

Closely linked with full employment is, naturally, the world economic situation. After all, the state of trade both within national boundaries and internationally must affect our own employment figures. This, too, is being discussed.

## Helping the Needy

And then there is the vast job ahead in assisting underdeveloped countries which cry out for technicians, machinery, roads, railways, doctors, teachers, and many other kinds of experts. How is the better endowed part of the world going to deal with this matter? Are we going to keep all our experts at home or are we going to lend them abroad in the hope that better trade, and better standards of living, will result at some future date? Well, there is little doubt what the Council will recommend. The question is: How quickly can we put backward countries on their feet and make them really happy and prosperous?

It is, of course, not only the "bread-and-butter" questions which engage the attention of delegates at Geneva. The scope of the Council covers such fields as preservation of human rights, and freedom of information. The United Nations have learned enough to realise that material progress is impossible without progress of the spirit of mankind.

# NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

## HOGARTH'S HOUSE

The Chiswick home of the painter William Hogarth, which was badly damaged during the war, is to be restored by Middlesex County Council at a cost of £3650.

A team of Swiss yodellers are to take part in the Welsh Eisteddfod at Llangollen.

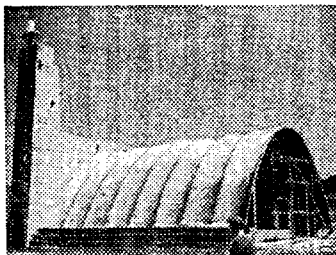
The Committee on Houses of Outstanding Historic or Architectural Interest have recommended the setting up of two councils, one for England and Wales, the other for Scotland, to designate houses which should be given tax relief in order to preserve them as part of the nation's heritage.

Periscope mirrors which enable a driver to see over a vehicle in front of him are being offered to American motorists.

## Black Month

Last April was the worst April since the war for road accidents. The total casualties of 14,005 included 349 killed and 3458 seriously injured. Child casualties numbered 3084.

By making a non-stop flight of 2302 miles from Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, to San Diego, California, with 144 men on board, the U.S. Navy's largest flying boat, Caroline Mars, has set up a new passenger-carrying record.



On the Lawrence Weston Estate, near Bristol, this ultra-modern church, designed by a Bristol architect, is nearing completion. Building costs are expected to be about £6000.

Four orphan kingfishers found at Kendal, Westmorland, were brought up on porridge and minnows and later set free.

A colour film of Greater Horseshoe Bats in flight, taken in a cave under Pembroke Castle, is hoped to provide fresh evidence of the ability of bats to avoid obstacles. It is believed that they emit a noise inaudible to human ears, which reflects from any object in their path.

## LONGEST LONG JUMP

S. O. Williams, a Nigerian student at Glasgow University, has broken the British National long jump record with a leap of 25 feet 2½ inches.

British archaeologists are excavating in the ruins of the shrine of the goddess Aphrodite, at Kouklia, near Paphos, Cyprus. They hope to establish the chronology of ancient Paphos.

A competition with a prize of 100 guineas for an overture to commemorate the opening of Manchester's new Free Trade Hall in 1951, is being organised by the Hallé Concert Society.

The new building at Strasbourg for the Council of Europe is expected to be finished in time for the August Assembly, although work only started in March. The amphitheatre debating chamber will seat 200 representatives, 200 members of the Press, and 399 members of the public.

## War in Korea

A new war began in Korea when Communist forces from the northern half of the country invaded the south. Korea was divided into two halves, the northern under Russian influence and the southern under American influence, when Russia and the Western Democracies failed to agree about a form of government for Korea as a whole.

The trans-Arabia pipeline which is being laid from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean is expected to deliver oil to the first tanker next New Year's Day.

Washing-machines have been used to make cream in some parts of the country since the restrictions were removed. It has been found that the agitators are very suitable for separating the cream from the milk.

Dr Kalverno Oberg, of the Smithsonian Institution, on returning to Washington after four years of exploration in the Matto Grosso region of Brazil, reported the discovery of two primitive tribes who live mainly on fish, and except on ceremonial occasions wear no clothes.

## CAPITAL PREFABS

A Lincoln firm of joinery manufacturers has secured an order worth over £500,000 from the Australian Government for 500 factory-made houses. The houses are for Canberra, the capital.

New records were made in May for the export of cars and of iron and steel. Figures, compared with those for March, the previous record month, were: Cars, 37,463 (36,608) iron and steel 275,701 tons (255,882).

The liner Empress of Scotland, 26,000 tons, has set up a new speed record in the journey from Canada to the Clyde—five days, 42 minutes.

A 20-year agreement making Beira, in Portuguese East Africa, a free port, has been signed by Portugal, Southern Rhodesia, and Britain. All customs duties on goods passing through the port are to be waived, as is also the transit tax formerly levied by the Beira railway.

BOAC airliners operating hot weather routes are to be painted white. Tests at Aden and Abadan, Persia, have shown that this reduces the temperature inside the plane by as much as ten degrees.

America's 40th Anniversary Scout Jamboree is the first to be televised.

It is likely that Greater New York will prove to be the biggest city in the world when the census is completed. New York itself has now 7,770,443 people, and to these will be added the populations of Brooklyn and Manhattan. The population of Greater London is 8,390,941.

## PLUCKY BOY SWIMMER

A 13-year-old boy weighing five stone saved a woman weighing 15 stone who could not swim from drowning in the East River, New York, not long ago. He kept her afloat until help arrived.

The Natural History Museum, South Kensington, has a new exhibit of humming birds. Individual birds are illuminated by a changing spotlight designed to throw up the iridescence of the plumage.

# World Partnership in Education

THE International Bureau of Education (founded in 1925) and Unesco meet in Geneva in joint session this week. No fewer than 75 countries will attend this Conference, including many which are not members of the United Nations.

The delegates will consider reports from the Ministries of Education of all the members. These reports, which will later be incorporated in the Bureau's Yearbook of Education, enable each country to benefit from the experience of the others.

A special section of the agenda is to be devoted to the teaching of mathematics in the primary school, seeking means of helping young children to increase their grasp of a study which can do so much to make them more effective men and women.

## Exchange of Teachers

With a view to broadening the outlook of teachers in all countries the Conference will study further schemes for the exchange of teachers between one country and another, and submit their proposals to all Ministries of Education. Handicraft teaching in secondary schools is another item on the agenda.

Every delegate—and CN readers, too—will echo these words of Mr Paolo Carneiro, chairman of last year's Conference: "All educators should feel that they are truly members of one body, whose task is not merely to teach and to devote themselves to their task, but also to arouse that true individual and social conscience without which it will be impossible to establish a new peace."

## BABIES ABOARD

WHAT is believed to be the largest number of babies ever to travel in one ship are on board the Royal Mail liner, Atlantis, which is due at Amsterdam from Indonesia on July 10.

There are 47 babies under one year old—not counting those born during the voyage who are expected to number about 40! Also there are 150 young folk between one and three, and 152 boys and girls between three and 12. All are the children of people being repatriated to Holland from Indonesia, which used to be the Dutch East Indies.

The British ship was chartered by the Netherlands Government and the crew have been living up to the British sailors' tradition of being fond of children, the married officers giving classes of instruction on the care of babies!

## British Buses For Havana

THE noisy trams of Havana, Cuba's capital city, are to be replaced by a fleet of 620 "Royal Tiger" buses supplied by a British firm. The beauty of the city will no longer be marred by tramway standards and wires.

The order for the buses, given to Leyland Motors Limited, is one of the largest single dollar orders obtained by a British firm. It is worth 8,868,000 dollars, and was gained in the face of American and Continental competition.

## THE CAPTAIN SAYS FAREWELL

ONE of the best friends of British youth, who is also one of Britain's greatest sportsmen, Captain C. B. Fry has just retired from his position as Honorary director of the famous training ship Mercury, which lies at Hamble, Southampton Water.

He has been there for 42 years, and generations of lads, training to be Merchant Navy and Royal Navy officers, have been inspired by this great personality.

Though Captain C. B. Fry is 78, he remains young in spirit; his fame is, undimmed and will never die while Britons hold a bat, kick a ball, or tread the track. For he was not only a top-notch player, but a scholar and a teacher, gladly passing on his knowledge and experience.

In the early days of the century C. B. captained England in Test matches, played Association football for England, and was a champion athlete. But the work nearest his heart was helping lads to become first-class sailors.

Now the captain has said farewell; but his influence and inspiration endure. Good luck, Mercury! Good luck, C.B!

## 11,000 Bottles of Straw

THE 450-year-old tithe barn at Easington in the East Riding has a new roof covering. One of the finest remaining examples in England of the buildings to which farmers and rural workers used to bring their tithes, or taxes-in-kind, for the church, this barn had long been in need of a new thatch; but before the work could be done it was necessary to make a new foundation on which the thatch could be laid. This involved the laying of "bottles"—small wedge-shaped straw sheaves about two feet long.

Altogether, 11,000 of these "bottles" were required, using 20 tons of straw. But no-one could be found who knew the ancient art of making them. So a local engineer volunteered to learn, and he made the first 2000 by following instructions in a book. Other men watched and learned, and together they completed the making and laying.

But it will be some years before the new thatching can be finished, for the "bottles" take a good time to settle down.



# THEY HAVE STARTED YOUNG

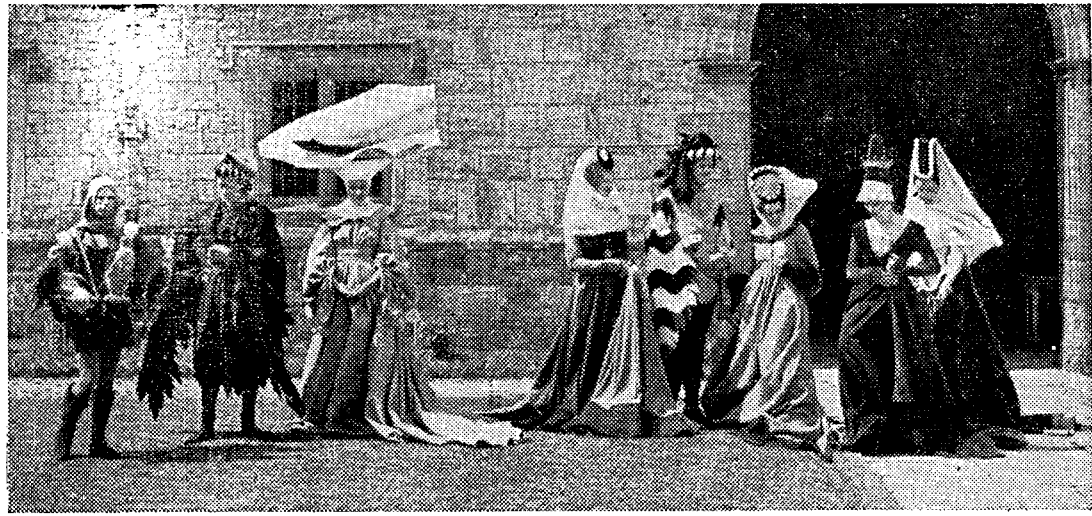
**FIVE-YEAR-OLD** Penelope Anne Swann, orphan grand-daughter of Sir Michael Kielby (chairman of The Athel Line) launched the company's new 700-ton tanker *Athelbrook* at Birkenhead the other day. At the lunch which followed the launching ceremony she stood on a chair to give her speech of thanks for the gift of a gold wristlet watch from the ship-builders.

**NICHOLAS SPINKS**, 11-year-old son of the Managing Director of a famous North of England furnishing firm, spoke as representative of the fourth generation of his family at a Centenary Celebration luncheon in Leeds.

Without any trace of nervousness, he replied to the toast to "The Future" in a way that aroused the admiration of everyone.

**At the Northern Counties Breeding Clubs' 87th Show of British Friesian Cattle**, held recently at York, 19-year-old Valerie Nicholson of Lanchester, County Durham, became the first girl and the youngest judge to officiate at any big Cattle Show in this country.

The points about Valerie's skill in the judging ring that were most freely commented upon by the farmers were her cool efficiency and the speed with which she does her work.



## A-Hawking We Will Go

Students of the costume class of the LCC Central School of Arts and Crafts recently gave a pageant in the inner courtyard at Penshurst Place, Kent, depicting various periods of English history. Here they are dressed as a hawking party of the fifteenth century.

## TWO BENEFITS

Two of England's popular County cricketers will be anxiously watching the weather forecast this week-end. Jim Ord of Warwickshire, takes as his benefit the match with Middlesex, at Edgbaston, Birmingham; and Harold Butler of Nottinghamshire, the match with Yorkshire, at Trent Bridge.

Jim Ord, one of the smallest men in County cricket, made his debut with Warwickshire in 1933. It was five years before he was awarded his County cap, but since then he has been one of the County's batting stalwarts, hitting his 1000 runs per season. He has a big smile that even a "duck" cannot dispel.

Harold Butler is one of the game's hard-working fast bowlers. A native of Nottingham, he began his County cricket career 17 years ago, and has now taken more than 750 wickets.

May the sun shine on them both!

## TRANS-ATLANTIC HOLIDAY

**TWENTY-ONE** boys and girls, between 16 and 17 years of age, are flying from London to New York this week on their way to a month's International Holiday at Nashville, Tennessee.

They represent 21 Western European countries (including Finland, Greece, Western Germany, Turkey, and Austria), and they will be the guests of Youth Incorporated, an organisation founded in Nashville by a group of business men and women to foster international friendship, and to promote "the physical, moral, and mental development of boys and girls."

They will be joined at Nashville by 50 specially-selected students from all over the States, and when they return in August they will be invited to enter an essay competition on their experiences.

## LAURELS FOR BYRON

**LORD BYRON** earned greater fame abroad than in his own country. In Greece, for instance, where he died in 1824, while assisting the country to regain its independence, he is still a national hero.

Now the Greeks on the island of Rhodes want to have a fresh wreath laid on Byron's tomb in Hucknall Church, Nottinghamshire. It will be of laurel, and a copy of the wreath of brass which the King of Greece presented in 1888 and which now forms part of a marble slab above Byron's tomb.

## BIG BALL FOR BONZO, PLEASE

It is great fun to throw a ball for your dog to dash after and proudly bring back to lay at your feet. But Our Dumb Friends League have this word of warning.

Do not use a small ball, such as a golf ball, or stones. These small objects can easily stick in your dog's throat, or be swallowed.

The League declare that the number of operations on dogs who have swallowed balls and stones has increased to alarming numbers.

## WAR ON PESTS

**A SURVEY** has been made of the research work being done by the Pest Infestation Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in methods of preventing damage by flies, moths, and other household invaders.

Experiments with the clothes moth have determined the temperature limits beyond which the moth cannot survive. Some larvae survived more than three days at a temperature of 98.6 degrees F, but at all stages of development the moths died within four hours at 105.8 degrees.

The Laboratory is chiefly interested, however, in dealing with insect and mite pests which ravage stored foodstuffs. Estimates have shown that at least five per cent of the world's cereals are consumed or ruined by insects. As that five per cent represents the world shortage of cereals today it will be seen how important it is to reduce the loss.

## INTERNATIONAL HENLEY

**THE Henley Royal Regatta**, taking place this week, is among the most famous of the world's sports meetings; and this year's entries, which include the record number of 20 from seven foreign and Commonwealth countries, will enhance its attractions.

In the Grand Challenge Cup our Lady Margaret crew and Leander Club (last year's winners) will find stern opposition from Harvard University (previous winners), Dartmouth R.C. from the States, and crews from Belgium, Italy, and Holland.

The Thames Cup, won for the last two years by Princeton, will probably go overseas again, for although Princeton are not defending, crews representing Kent School (three times winners) and Yale University, are here from the U.S. and another entry is from University College, Dublin.

Of Henley's ten trophies seven will be contested by entries from overseas.

## RECORD RECORDS

**STARTED** as an experiment two years ago this month, the City of Westminster Music Library has issued some 300,000 records. More than 4000 registered members have availed themselves of the 9000 records of classical music. The library is open to residents or workers of Westminster and is free of charge.

Only 4 per cent of the collection, which is valued at £2000, have been damaged or broken.

## IMMIGRANTS GOOD AND BAD

**AUSTRALIA** welcomes some insects—and detests others.

Recently thousands of tiny black insects, found in the South of France, were flown from London to Australia to eat up a certain noxious weed which is spoiling Australia's lush grasslands.

On the other hand, there is a plague of Argentine ants in and around the city of Sydney, and the authorities there are taking drastic measures against them, because they devour food of all kinds.

## IS YOUR CYCLE SAFE?

**ACCORDING** to figures published by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, an examination of school bicycles by the Southampton Police showed that of 595 cycles examined 485 were defective.

Some 2735 separate defects were noticed, the most numerous being: back brake, 242; steering, 240; front brake, 226; loose chain, 215; no bell, 169.

All these faults can be a source of danger on the road, so check your cycle carefully—now!

## TREASURE IN A DITCH

**PETER PALMER**, aged 14, was raking about in a dry ditch near the County Modern School at Hailsham, Sussex, when he saw a coin. He went on raking and unearthed 14 golden sovereigns, dated from 1827 to 1871; eight old half-sovereigns; six old half-crowns; and a shilling.

Peter did the right thing and took the treasure to the police. An inquest was held on the hoard and it was decided that it was treasure trove.

Lucky Peter!

## STAMP NEWS

**ISRAEL** has issued a set of six air mail stamps depicting birds from ancient Jewish art and commemorating the first flight by El Al Israel National Airlines from Lydda to New York.

**A SPECIAL** stamp with a surcharge will be placed on sale in Holland on July 17 and will remain on sale for two months. All the funds obtained will be devoted to the rebuilding of churches destroyed in the war.

**THE Western Zone of Germany** will issue a set of three values soon to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Bach.

**A SINGLE** stamp was issued in Brazil recently to mark the centenary of the Sisters of Charity, an Order of Nuns.

**NEW ZEALAND'S 1950 Health Stamps**, to be issued in October, will feature Princess Elizabeth and Prince Charles. Funds from the sale of these 1d and 3d stamps will support health camps for children.



## Putting His Foot in It

Dixie, the Indian elephant at Whipsnade Zoo, has been suffering from rheumatism in one of her fore-legs, and here she is having treatment from her keeper.



## TREASURE ISLAND RE-DISCOVERED

THERE can be no doubt at all about the complete success of Walt Disney's latest film. It is a Technicolor version of Robert Louis Stevenson's story *Treasure Island*. It was one of Disney's favourite books when he was a boy, and he has thought about filming it for fourteen years.

The result repays all the care that has obviously been lavished on it, and congratulations are due to the Disney Studios, and especially to Perce Pearce, the producer, and Byron Haskin, the director. The screenplay, written by Lawrence Watkin, is worthy of the original. It has the real Stevensonian flavour.

*Treasure Island* is not a cartoon, and it was made in England. Once more Disney has shown his genius for experiment. It has been necessary to compress the story a little, but that is all. The dialogue has the real piratical tang, and the *Hispaniola*, a square-rigger, is worthy of the mixed crew that sailed in her on the quest for buried gold, left on a remote South Sea island by the notorious pirate, Captain Flint.

Jim Hawkins is alone with old Captain Billy Bones in his mother's inn when the first of the peculiar visitors comes to the door. Black Dog is searching for Bones. Later there comes a horrid creature, Blind Pew, who gives Bones the Black Spot—a sign that he is to die at the hands of his old piratical shipmates. He gives Jim the map of *Treasure Island* for safe keeping, and when Jim returns with Squire Trelawney and Doctor Livesey, they find Bones lying dead.

The Squire soon realises the importance of the map, and decides to fit out a ship to go in



Bobby Driscoll as Jim Hawkins. Right: Bobby with Long John Silver (Robert Newton)

search of the treasure. At Bristol they meet Captain Smollett. He warns the Squire that he must keep his mouth shut. There are suspicious characters about, and if they hear of the treasure it is probable that some pirates will manage to enrol as members of the *Hispaniola's* crew. The Squire is completely taken in by a plausible cripple, a ship's cook known as Long John Silver.

That is the beginning of one of the best adventure tales ever written, and those who love the book will not be disappointed in the film.

The actors have been almost perfectly cast. Bobby Driscoll is the ideal Jim Hawkins, and Walter Fitzgerald is just right as the talkative Squire. Basil Sydney takes all his chances as Captain Smollett, and Denis O'Dea is suitably sympathetic as Doctor Livesey.

The pirates are a splendid crew of motley scoundrels, and among the all-British cast (Bobby Driscoll, an American, is



the one exception) are such excellent players as John Laurie, Finlay Currie, Francis De Wolff, Geoffrey Keen, William Devlin, Ralph Truman, Stephen Jack, Sam Kydd, and Harry Locke. There must be a special word for Geoffrey Wilkinson who is the half-crazed Ben Gunn.

Best of all is Robert Newton's Long John Silver. I have seen various famous actors in this part on the stage, but not one of them brought the smooth and at times almost likeable villain to life as Newton does here. It is one of the half-dozen best character portrayals I know.

Walt Disney's *Treasure Island* is one of the finest films for boys—and girls—of all ages that has ever been made.

## One of Suffolk's Stately Homes

THE stately Suffolk mansion of Euston Hall, seat of the Duke of Grafton, is now being drastically reduced in size owing to high cost of upkeep. About two-thirds of the building is to be pulled down, though every effort is being made to retain its old character, the part scheduled for demolition being modern.

Set in a lovely park watered by the little River Thet, Euston Hall was erected by the Earl of Arlington, a member of the Cabal, the notorious ministry of Charles the Second, and it entertained Queen Elizabeth on her way to Norwich in 1578. Lord Arlington's only child and heiress married the 1st Duke of Grafton, and Euston Hall has been the home of this family ever since.

The mansion and its park had no greater admirer than Robert Bloomfield, author of *The Farmer's Boy*, who was born in the neighbouring parish of Honington in 1766. This is his description:

Where noble Grafton spreads  
his rich domains  
Round Euston's watered vale and  
sloping plains;  
Where woods and groves in  
solemn grandeur rise,  
Where the kite brooding unmolested flies;  
The woodcock and the painted  
pheasant race,  
And skulking foxes, destined for  
the chase.

THE C N ASTRONOMER DESCRIBES THE . . .

## Wonderful Suns of the Pole Star

POLARIS, the Pole Star of the present age, provides another type of star very different from Vega, our Sun, or the other stars we have been noting recently. Actually Polaris is composed of two suns, which adds to the interest, but, as their combined light makes the star of only second magnitude, it will not be conspicuous in the twilight sky.

However, if the observer faces north, Polaris will be found less than one third of the way down from overhead point toward the horizon. With the aid of the star-map and the two stars Beta and Gamma (known as the "Leaders," and now almost between overhead and Polaris) it should be readily identified.

To ensure certain identification the two leading stars of the Plough, Alpha and Beta of Ursa Major, point almost directly to Polaris. These stars are at present very high in the north-west sky.

The constellation of Ursa Minor, usually described as the Little Bear, and at the tip of whose very long tail Polaris is situated, is composed chiefly of rather faint stars which are not discernible until late at night in summertime. Beta and Gamma, however, are exceptions, though their positions change with reference to the observer according to the time of year, and even the time of the night, as they swing round the Pole.

This gives the effect of the Little Bear being swung round by his Tail, the Pole Star at the tip being the pivot. But it is not precisely at the celestial North Pole, so even Polaris performs a small circle round the true Pole. Nevertheless, it is sufficiently near for most practical purposes to indicate true north. Navigators, of course, know its variations.

A remarkable peculiarity of Polaris is the variability in the output of light and heat of the

larger of its two suns and the frequency with which it occurs, which is about every four days. In this short time its radiation increases from about 565 times more than our Sun to about 620 times as much.

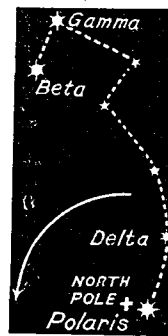
The fact that Polaris is relatively and apparently not nearly so bright as Vega or Arcturus is due to its much greater distance. Polaris is some 15,800,000 times farther than our Sun, as compared with 1,707,850 times for Vega, while Arcturus is 2,563,250 times more distant.

The other and somewhat smaller sun which revolves round this great central sun of Polaris takes 29½ years to do so—almost exactly the same length of time that Saturn takes to revolve round our Sun. Their distance apart averages about 600 million miles, compared with Saturn's average distance of 886 million miles from our Sun.

This smaller sun of Polaris thus appears to possess a planetary character and to be a great fiery world in the making. But the whole system is at present in a very early stage of evolution.

There is yet another sun which may be a member of this system. It appears as a star of ninth magnitude, and if this faint companion is at about the same distance as the others (250 light-years' journey) it would be a sun about twice as bright as ours and somewhat larger.

It is, however, possible that this so-called "companion" may only appear close through being in the line-of-sight. G. F. M.



The arrow shows the direction in which the Little Bear travels

## STAR-GAZING IN COMFORT

AUDIENCES in comfortable seats will soon be able to study the wonders of the night sky at any time of day, for Dr E. M. Lindsay, Director of Armagh Observatory, in Northern Ireland, has announced plans for the building of a planetarium.

It will probably be the first in the British Empire, for the planetarium which has been planned for the Science Museum in London may not be ready for some years yet.

The idea of a planetarium is nothing new, for there are references to primitive ones in ancient books. But the modern type, developed by the famous firm of Zeiss, is remarkable for the ease and speed with which the heavenly bodies can be put through their paces.

The new structure at Armagh will be a circular building with a domed roof 60 feet in diameter. In the centre will be the projector, and in lean-back chairs will sit the 150 people who will be able to enjoy the spectacle at any one time. The pictures of the sky will be thrown on the roof, which will represent the sky, and the cardinal points of East and West will be shown.

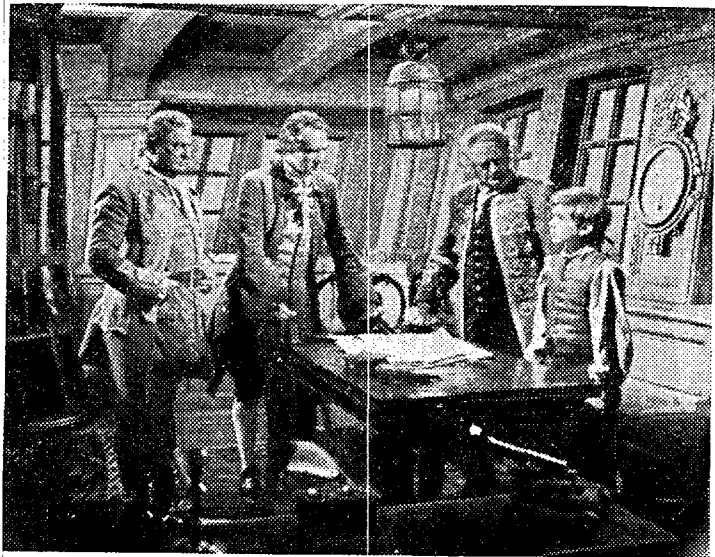
Here will come members of astronomical societies of the

United Kingdom for private exhibitions. Also, since astronomy will be introduced into the school certificate examination in Northern Ireland next year, students will be able to study the heavens. At other times members of the general public will be admitted.

The modern projectors used will be able to manipulate the features of the night sky to a fantastic extent. The Sun and Moon and planets can be made to rise or set at any speed. A year can be gone through in an hour, and the sky in any part of the world can be projected, so that the Southern Cross may be seen in Northern latitudes in replica if not in actuality.

The sky at any period of time—past, present, or future—can be shown. The stars of the Plough, for instance, were not arrayed in the same way in the past, and will be even more scattered in the future. The configuration of the planets for the year 1900 or the year 2000 will be just as easily shown as for the year 1950.

Especially beautiful will be the representation of the Northern Lights, which will be thrown on the roof screen with stars shining through it.



Jim Hawkins brings news of the pirates' intended mutiny

## THE FAME OF BENDIGO

A SILVER cup which once belonged to Bendigo, the famous bare-fisted boxer, has been found in a pile of household rubbish at Nottingham, where he was born. It bears his name, W. Thompson, and his head appears in miniature at the base of the two handles.

William Thompson was one of triplets, nicknamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and when he first entered the ring, in 1835, he called himself "Abednego of Nottingham," a title which the sporting press soon converted into "Bendigo."

As Bendigo, he quickly became a champion pugilist, and on one occasion he fought 99 rounds before his opponent, William Looney, admitted defeat. The Australian city of Bendigo, in a gold-mining region of Victoria, is said to have been named after this doughty fighter.

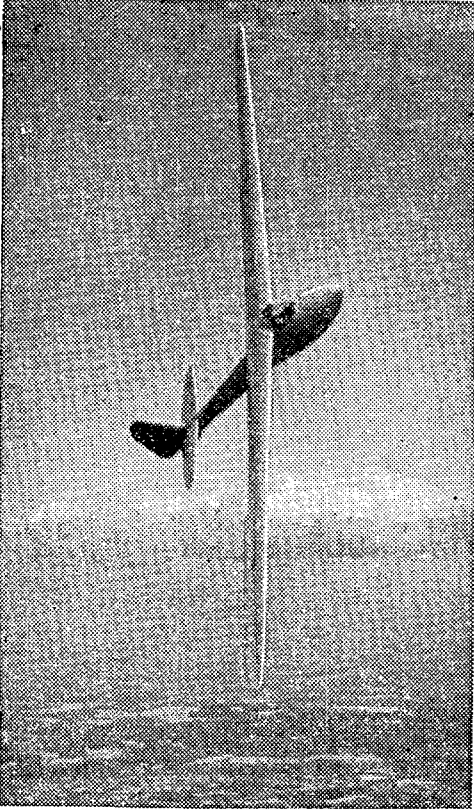
After his retirement from the ring in 1850 Bendigo was converted to Evangelism and used to hold meetings up and down the country. It is said that he threatened to fight anyone who was bold enough to interrupt his discourses.



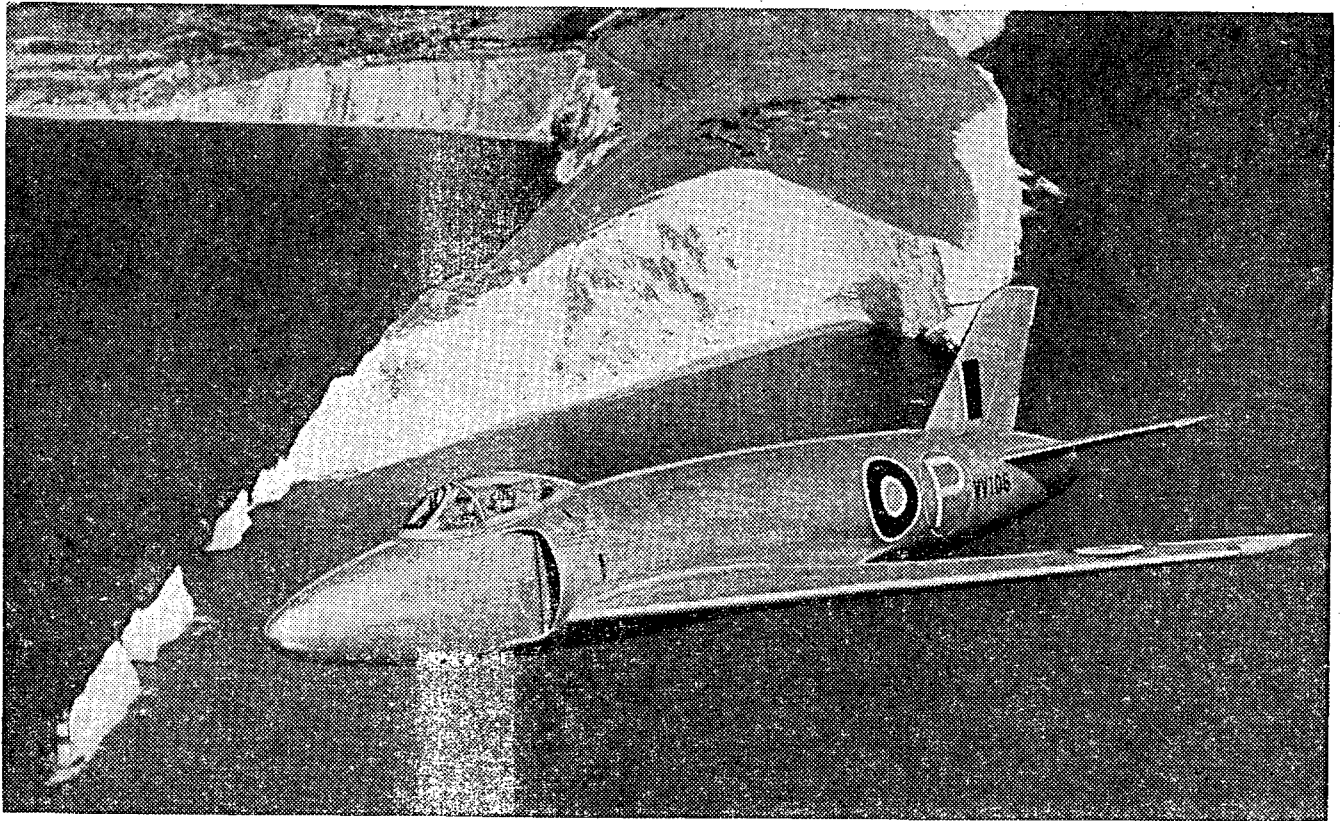
# The Royal Air Force Shows Its Paces

This week's Royal Air Force Display at Farnborough, on July 7 and 8, is the first since before the war, when they were held at Hendon. Over 400 machines

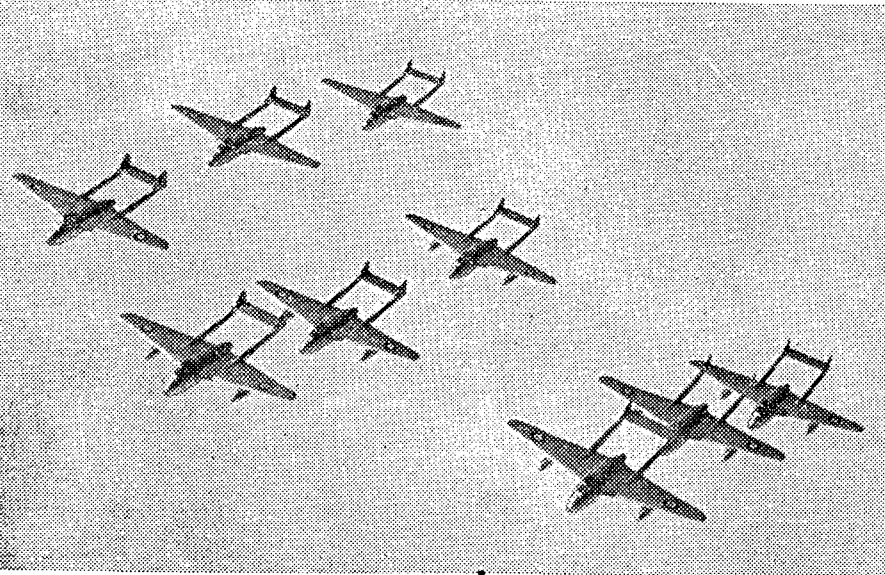
are taking part, including many of the latest jet-propelled planes, some of which are shown on this page. Some 70,000 children are seeing the rehearsal.



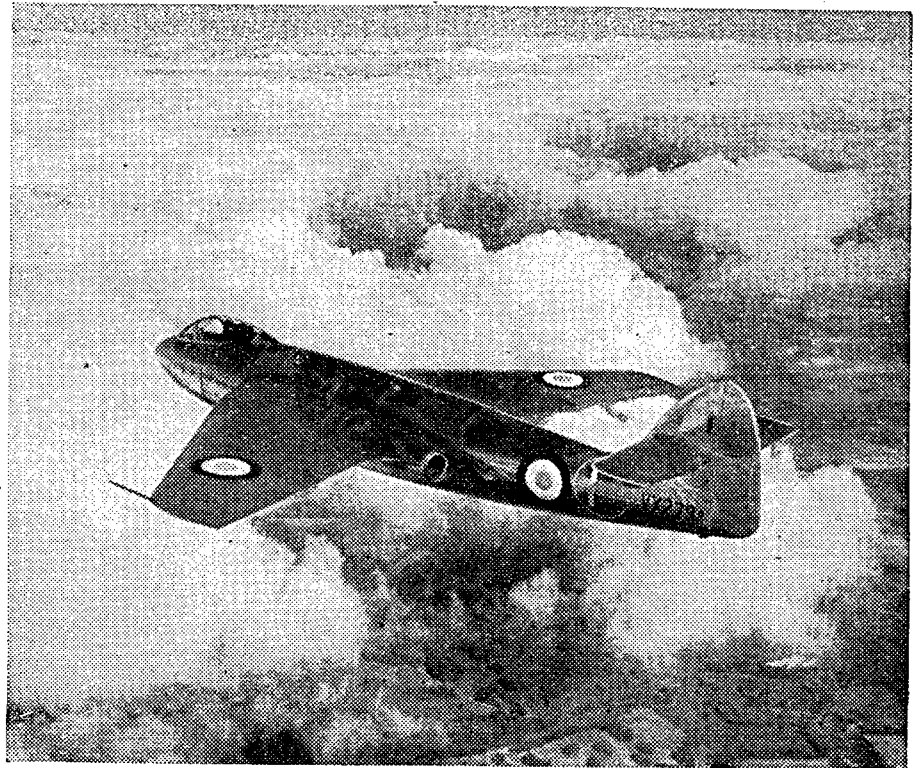
An Olympia Sailplane banks steeply



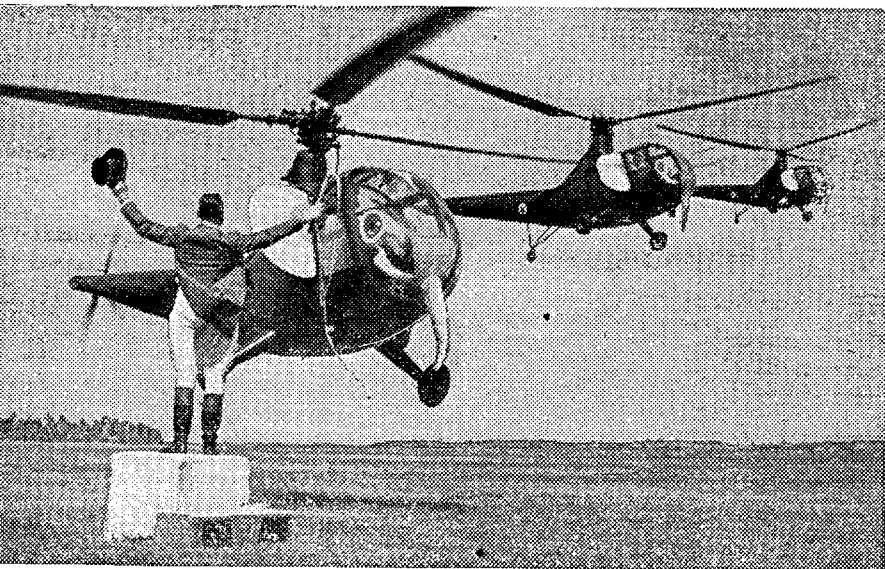
The Vickers 510 jet-propelled experimental fighter flying above the Needles, off the Isle of Wight



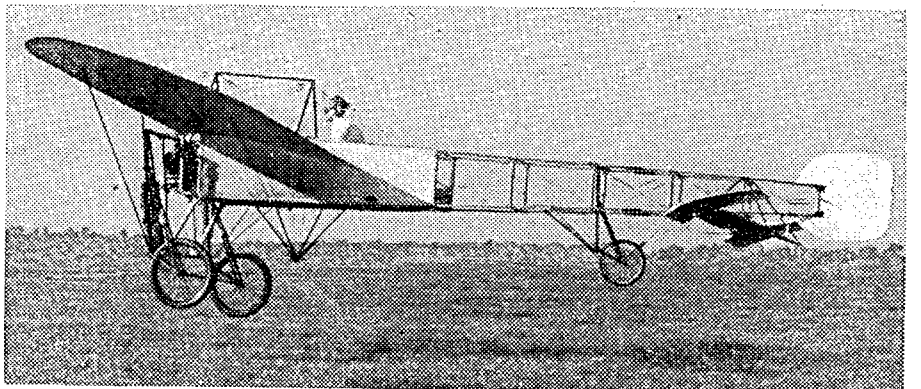
A close formation of De Havilland Vampire jet-propelled fighters



The Hawker P1052 jet-propelled fighter flying above the clouds

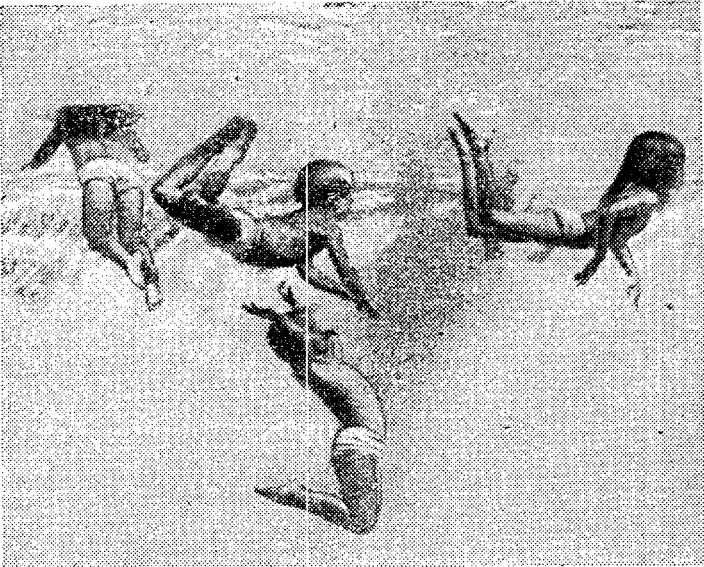


Helicopter Circus—A ringmaster parades Hoverflies dressed as elephants



A Bleriot Monoplane similar to the one which first crossed the Channel





### School For Water Babies

An unusual kindergarten school in Los Angeles, California, is the Child Guidance Lyceum. Children quickly learn to feel at home in the school swimming pool, and here we see some of the pupils playing underwater.

## RETURN OF THE GREBE

VISITING a lake near his home in the Sussex Weald, 11-year-old Percy Bennett was astonished to see three small striped birds riding pick-a-back style on their father as he patrolled the water. The adult was nearly twenty inches long, with a tall neck and a beautiful frill of chestnut feathers on the sides of the face. Near the water's edge were three bulky nests of reeds, two of them occupied by sitting birds; the lake had become "taken over" by great-crested grebes.

Cornwall, Cambridgeshire, Dorset, and Devon are now the only counties in England where grebe are seldom seen. More than 500 lakes and reservoirs in this country are now occupied by these lovely birds, and they are particularly numerous in Norfolk and the Midlands.

Yet there were only fifty pairs of great-crested grebes in the whole of Britain a century ago. It became clear in those days that if people continued to raid their nests and shoot them—for their handsome feathers were often used to adorn ladies' hats—these birds would soon completely disappear from our country.

Parliament passed the Wild Birds Protection Acts just in time. It became a serious offence to molest these birds, and they have been growing more numer-

### Unburnt Offerings

THE forest fires on Table Mountain during South Africa's summer have made wild life much more approachable.

A party of schoolboys going for a picnic up the mountain the other day chose a path through the worst-burnt areas. When they sat down to a lunch of cheese sandwiches and bananas they soon had company in the shape of innumerable dassies (rock rabbits) that came along for tit-bits. Normally dassies feed on berries and young shoots, but the fires had destroyed their natural diet, and they were grateful to get crusts of bread and banana peel from the young picnickers.

Squirrels, too, now take strips of bacon, sardines, and buns from campers because the burnt mountainside has no nuts.

## Insect Enemies of Books

Boys and girls in hot countries, and librarians, too, have to keep a closer watch on their books than is necessary in this country. That lost text-book, when found in some odd corner, is likely to have provided a hearty meal for certain insects which believe in thoroughly digesting the contents of a volume.

Recently the British Council asked their librarians in tropical countries to send to a research station here damaged books, and insects, dead or alive, found in them.

Perhaps the worst enemies of books in hot countries are the termites, known as white ants. These make short work of books, as well as of other things, when they invade a building.

### The Bookworm

The so-called bookworm, which is really the grub of a tiny beetle about one-tenth of an inch long, makes long tunnels into the leaves of a book. Hatched from eggs laid on the book's edges, the grubs eat the paper as they burrow into it.

Cockroaches cannot digest paper, but they disfigure books by chewing their covers to get starch. A nice juicy book-cover is just what his doctor orders for Master Cockroach, and he can spoil a book's looks in a night or two.

Another fancier of the starch paste, and of the glue in bindings, is the minute booklouse. Also found in Britain, it is too small to do much damage.

Research for protecting books from these creatures that absorb learning in all too practical a manner is being carried out by the Printing, Packaging, and Allied Trades' Research Association.

## Bellringing is a Grand Hobby

SCHOOLBOYS all over Great Britain are finding that bellringing is among the most fascinating of hobbies. From the age of fourteen and upwards they are welcomed to church towers, and trained to ring those "changes" which summon the devout to service.

Mr S. E. Armstrong, captain of the tower at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Hove, told a CN correspondent recently that the time required to learn ringing was "three months to handle the bell; three months to ring round; twelve months to master a simple method; more than a

lifetime to master all the branches—practical, historical, and mathematical." He added that boys could not start too young to learn the preliminary stages, and that his own son Nicholas, who is seven, is already the keenest of ringers.

The oldest ringing society now in existence is the Ancient Society of College Youths, London. Founded in 1637 at St Michael's, College Hill, it was later called "ancient" to distinguish it from a break-away society formed in the eighteenth century.



Harvey Gay, Nicholas Armstrong, and Anthony King at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Hove.

## The Editor's Table

### UNESCO GOES ON

IT is good news that although Unesco is cutting down expenses, it is to continue its work. Britain alone gives over £350,000 a year to this organisation concerned with the affairs of the mind and the spirit; but that surely is not too much to devote to so great a cause.

To encourage the nations of the world to find common interests in books, scientific and cultural ideas, and to plan experiments in all the wide domains of intellect is a noble aim. During its short career Unesco may have given support to some useless ideas, and it may have dissipated some time and money. But those are mere teething troubles.

The truth is that the very existence of Unesco in a world where the spirit of man is so often cabined and confined is an inspiration; and its worth cannot be assessed in terms of pounds or dollars.

In its aims to serve the youth of the nations Unesco is specially to be commended, and not the least of these is the plan to establish youth institutes in Germany. If in the fellowship of voluntary clubs (which have served the Anglo-Saxon people so well) young Germany can learn the ways of friendly relationships Unesco will have proved worthwhile—for this alone.

Noble aspirations should always be applauded and encouraged. History tells us that the dreamers of dreams are usually right.

### TWO BRAVE MEN

A YOUNG scientist injured in an atomic explosion was recently awarded a large sum of money, and in commenting on the case the judge praised the man for his courage in adversity, and his partial triumph over his injuries.

Those words of encouragement must have meant a great deal to the young scientist, now facing a very different future from the one he formerly anticipated and finding strength in the belief, which has given buoyancy to so many in times of despair, that "it is not life that matters, but the courage you bring to it."

In the same week a trans-Atlantic plane brought to Britain a man who for twenty years had been confined to an invalid's wheel chair. He flew the Atlantic in his chair, and so defeated the barriers of time and distance which separated him from his brother in this country.

### LOVE OF NATURE

THE sounding cataract Haunted me like a passion. The tall rock, The mountain, and the deep and gloomy wood, Their colours and their forms were then to me An appetite; a feeling and a love.

William Wordsworth

## Family Life

THE King, in his reply to a loyal address from the Convocation of York, said recently:

"In an age when much that we hold dear is threatened, we must work to preserve and strengthen a proper sense of family responsibility and of family unity, for on these are based our traditional way of life. You have rightly stressed the importance of the family. Our Christian heritage is developed in the family; and so far as lies in my power I shall support all your endeavours to maintain and strengthen the family tradition."

### YOUTH'S BIG JOB

YOUNG people today have the chance of building a better world than their forefathers; this was emphasised recently by the American ambassador, Mr Lewis Douglas, speaking at Sedburgh School. "Anything people of my generation say is liable, I think, to be regarded with scepticism by young people, because we seem to have made a considerable mess of the world," he said.

"At no time in modern history," he went on, "has the world been so disjointed, disturbed, confused, and uncertain as it is today. To enable men to achieve their best, mere knowledge and education are not enough. Other qualities are needed—personal restraint, the ability to distinguish between true and false, and a spirit of adventure combined with a respect for tradition. All of these qualities form part of that free society to which Britain and America belong."

### Summer Ease

REST is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the blue sky, is by no means a waste of time.

Lord Avebury

## Under the E



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If wicket-keepers have appealing ways

EVERY child should learn a craft. But must not be crafty.

TASTE is something you have or don't have, declares an artist. So is money.

POETS can do a great deal for peace. They can hold theirs.

ALL Thames bridges should have their names where river trippers can see them. Before they trip.

PEOPLE of Leeds say their bus brakes squeal. And the traffic roars.

make



### THINGS SAID

IT is essential to secure more and more varied openings for those who continue their formal education up to but not beyond 18. *Sir William Spens*

THE spirit of adventure in Britain is more acute each year, and the dominant thing in Britain is the way in which youth is working. *Lord Woolton*

WE are just as resolute, hard working, and as honest as ever we were. We are rather more gentle, a good deal more sober, and a good deal better educated. *Lord Pakenham*

YOU will remember the old saying that it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive. No good geographer would agree to that; we much prefer results. *President of the Royal Geographical Society*

### Prayer For Our Times

IN a House of Lords debate Lord Mountevans (Evans of the Broke) quoted his ideal of a prayer:  
*God give me sympathy and common-sense,  
And help me hold my courage high.  
God give me calm and confidence,  
And, please, a twinkle in my eye.*

### NOT-SO-LITTLE WOMEN

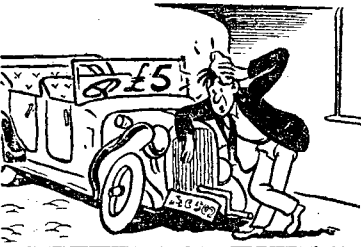
"BRITAIN has the bonniest babies and the best children in the world. And they are bonnier, bigger, and better than ever they have been in my lifetime."  
So said Mr Tomlinson, Minister of Education, the other day; and nobody in this country would disagree with him. But we do think that the improvement has been going on for quite a long time, and it would appear that on the average most ladies of today are bigger than their ancestors.  
Some 18th-century dresses were exhibited at a fete held recently at Silton in Dorset, and only schoolgirls were able to wear them!

### Editor's Table

IN taking a photograph you must use your brains as well as your eye. Not to mention a camera.

FLYING bores some business men. Although it is the plane that goes through the air.

A BOY who bought a mouth organ complained that it would not work. He meant that it would not play.



old car went for next to nothing at an auction. But the purchaser could not go.

### Coke the Undaunted

NATURE, which famous "Coke of Norfolk" so often bent to his will, seems to have taken a belated revenge on him by beheading his statue that stands over a cinema in East Dereham, Norfolk.

The statue's head was recently knocked off by lightning. The cinema was formerly an old Corn Hall, crowned by this statue of Thomas William Coke, Earl of Leicester, the great agriculturalist who lived from 1752 to 1842.

He was never a man to lose his head in his lifetime. His estate at Holkham, when he inherited it, was a barren, sandy place where, he used to say, "it was no rare thing to see two rabbits fighting for one blade of grass."

He was told that nothing could possibly be grown on it. But Coke started digging and found good marl under the sand. By cultivating this he made his desert one of the most productive estates in the kingdom.

British farmers owed much to Coke the undaunted.

### NO CHANGE HERE

IT seems that some over-enthusiastic Russian Communist, looking round for something fresh to revolutionise, hit on the Russian language. He was horrified to discover that this was still the same as in the old days of the Tsars. The language of Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Dostoyevsky was not for him. Down with the tongue of the capitalists!

Fortunately for the Russian people, Stalin wrote an article in the newspaper *Pravda* in which he declared: "Just as the Russian language served the capitalist State, so it can continue to serve the new socialist State. There is no point in a revolution in language if language serves the new order as well as the old."

The Russians may therefore go on speaking Russian.

### COUNTRY LIFE

NOR rural sights alone, but rural sounds  
Exhilarate the spirit and restore  
The tone of languid nature.  
Mighty winds,  
That sweep the skirt of some far-spreading wood  
Of ancient growth, make music  
not unlike  
The dash of Ocean on his wind-ing shore,  
And hull the spirit while they fill  
the mind.

*William Cowper*

### FOURSCORE

TWENTY years a boy, twenty years a youth, twenty years a man, twenty years an old man.

*Pythagoras*

### JUST AN IDEA

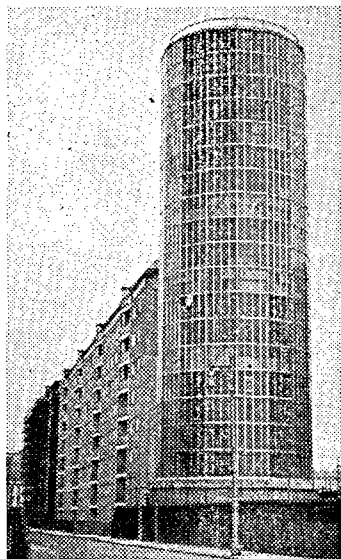
As Confucius wrote, In all things success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation, there is sure to be failure.

## HOT-WATER TOWER

WESTMINSTER City Corporation are building new blocks of flats in Pimlico and beside them has risen the tall tower seen in the picture below.

This new London landmark is metal-framed glass, and is 140 feet high. Inside it is a huge steel hot-water tank, insulated to retain the heat, which will provide hot water and central heating for the residents of the surrounding flats—sufficient, in fact, for about 10,000 people.

But the remarkable thing about this huge cistern is that the heat



is supplied by Battersea Power Station on the other side of the Thames. Exhaust steam from the power station provides the hot water, and it is piped under the river to the "Crystal Tower."

It is claimed that this ingenious system will save about 10,000 tons of fuel a year.

### Rosemary's Wombat

KEITH the wombat is the pet and playmate of 12-year-old Rosemary Fleay, daughter of David Fleay, one of Australia's famous naturalists.

Keith was seven weeks old when he was found in the pouch of his mother after she had been killed by a car. Six times a day Rosemary fed him on baby's food and he thrived on the treatment. Now Keith has the run of the house, dines with the family, and sits down by the fire with Rosemary while she does her homework.

### NO MORE LOST BALLS?

A GREAT boon for enthusiastic but erratic golfers may be heralded by the news from America of an experiment carried out to show that lost golf balls can be found by the use of radio-activity.

The demonstration was given by the Goodrich Rubber Company at Akron, in the state of Ohio. Two professionals drove several radio-active golf balls into the rough, then searchers equipped with earphones connected to miniature geiger counters took up the hunt. A series of irregular sounds in the earphones guided the searchers, and in a few minutes every ball was found.

## Suffolk Parson Who Studied the Insect World

It was said of Gilbert White of Selborne that "the natural term of an hog's life had more interest for him than that of an empire." Certainly to William Kirby, whose long and illustrious career ended on July 4, exactly a century ago, nothing in the affairs of men was more important than the true story of insect life. He devoted all his leisure and learning to making that strange story plain and understood.

Born at Winesham, Suffolk, in 1759, and educated at Ipswich and Cambridge University, William Kirby became curate, and then rector, of Barham, in his native county. There he laboured happily for over sixty years, and there all his writings were produced.

He inherited a love of botany from his gifted mother, and his own contributions to the subject earned him early fame. But having long peeped and pried into the affairs of plant life, he was one day fascinated by the beauty and interest of a ladybird that he discovered in his study window; and for the next forty years he peeped and pried among insects.

In 1802 he published a book on English bees which revealed the astonishing fact that he had traced the existence of no fewer than 153 species of wild bees in his own little parish! The volume brought him the friendship of the leading European naturalists and led to his writing, in conjunction with his friend, William Spence, a four-volume

### Introduction to Entomology.

Painstakingly toiling in his secluded rectory, William Kirby added chapter to chapter and volume to volume on the strange structure of insects, and their mysterious habits, senses, and instincts. It was he who worked out the life-story of the *strepsiptera*, the most mysterious of insects—the females pass their entire lives in the bodies of bees, wasps, and various flies, and the males only permit themselves occasional brief excursions into the open air. To Kirby also fell the glory of describing for the world the insects brought home from Sir John Franklin's first two Arctic expeditions.

The names of William Kirby and William Spence shine in the annals of the learned societies of Britain and Europe, and also appear repeatedly in the works of Charles Darwin. Delving unweariedly into the secrets of Nature, Kirby nevertheless ministered devotedly to his little Barham flock, and great was their loss, as to the senates of learning, when he died.

### Shropshire Lass Has a Good Idea

ONE of our Shrewsbury readers. Jean Chidley, aged eleven, has founded a junior cyclists' club to encourage road safety.

Jean, who is the daughter of a police-sergeant, enlisted eleven of her friends into the "Coptorne Junior Cyclists." They go out together for test rides and brake tests, and Jean's father gives them signal practice. Recently eight members of the club took part in the Junior Cycle Trials, organised by the Shrewsbury Road Safety Committee and the CTC.

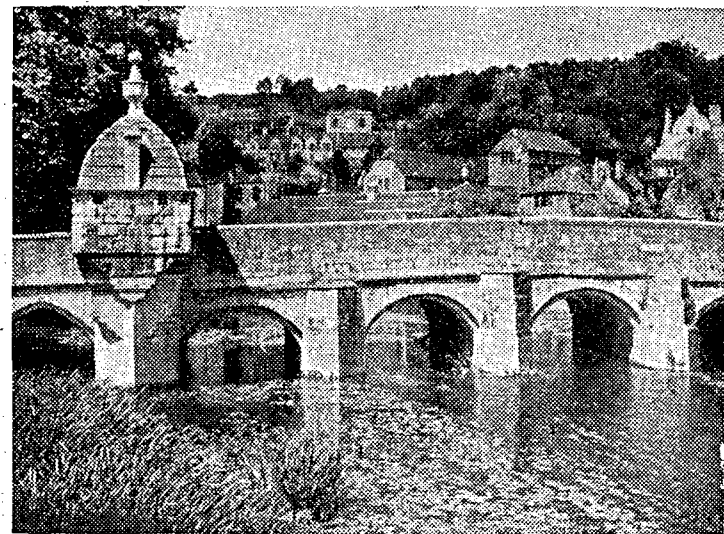
The Coptorne Club wear white jumpers and badges. Three of the girls hold Proficiency Badges, and they have a shed where they hold meetings and where a member of the CTC has taught them how to mend punctures and keep their bicycles in good condition.

### RUBBER IN THE ROAD

AN experimental strip of rubberised asphalt paving laid recently in Acre Lane, Brixton, is the first roadway of this type in the British Isles. It is not related to previous experiments, the rubber ingredient being in the form of a powder or grain made direct from natural latex.

This new surface is said greatly to reduce skidding and ice-formation, and not to crack in cold weather or soften in hot. But the experiment is of special economic importance, for Malayan rubber is the biggest single dollar-earner for Britain; in fact, it earns as many dollars as all the manufactured exports from this country do together.

If the idea of rubberised roads is accepted by American road engineers the consumption of rubber in the United States would be doubled.



### OUR HOMELAND

The Chapel on the Bridge at Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

## WORLD'S FASTEST CYCLIST

A NEW book that all keen cyclists will want to possess is *Reg Harris*, by George Pearson. (Temple Press, 3s 6d.) It is the story of the fastest cyclist on Earth, the first Englishman to win the World's Professional Sprint Championship since it began in 1895, and a man who, as Princess Margaret said at last year's Cycle Show, has "done a tremendous amount of good for British Sport generally."

Reg Harris won the Championship for Britain at Copenhagen last year, and it was a triumph over difficulties. As a schoolboy, Reg Harris was rather a frail lad, not very keen on football or cricket but with a growing interest in cycle-racing. At his home in Bury, Lancashire, he acquired his first bike for a few shillings when he was 13. After leaving school he took up cycle-racing seriously and was doing very well when the war came and he joined the Army.

In North Africa he escaped, badly wounded, from a blazing tank, and after lying in hospital for nearly a year, was discharged from the Army as medically unfit—not a happy prospect for a cycle sprinter!

However, Reg went into training, and in 1947 won the World's Amateur Sprint Championship.

His biographer tells of his many setbacks—and of his many successes as an amateur and as a professional.

## Tricycle Champion

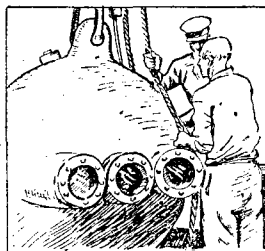
A NEW record for a tricycle ride from Land's End to John o' Groats has been set up by Mr Herbert Parkes of Manchester. On a light-weight machine he "tricked" the distance of 869 miles in three days and 38 minutes, which was eight hours 48 minutes faster than the record, made last year by Mr J. K. Letts of London.

Mr Parkes is a member of the Tricycle Association of Liverpool. Although road records for tricycles are still being contested, official track-racing tricycle records have been abandoned.

Dr William Beebe was born in Brooklyn in 1877, and educated at Columbia University, becoming a DSc and LL.D. Now he is a director of Tropical Research and curator of birds of New York Zoological Society.

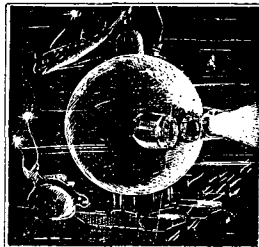


## Pioneers



During the 1930s, Beebe, accompanied by Dr Otis Barton, used for his deep-sea studies a bathysphere—a blue steel sphere with fused quartz windows and powerful searchlight. A cable at the top carried wires for light and telephone.

## 31. WILLIAM BEEBE, explorer of ocean depths



He wrote numerous books about birds and fishes, as well as scientific treatises. Most of his researches have been around Bermuda. In 1934 he reached a new record depth of 3028 feet in Bermuda waters.

Many fish he observed had never been seen before. Some were of fantastically beautiful colours, some trailed their own lights in the pitch darkness. Dr Beebe considered the Bathysphere the most lovely of all.



## LAND BY LOT

MOST of us learn at school that before the passing of the Enclosure Acts, much of the land in England was not split up into neat sections with hedges between them, but was in long, narrow strips for which the country folk drew lots each year.

The ancient practice in holding land persists over some stretches of rather marshy land in Oxfordshire which are used for meadow grass and for grazing after the hay has been gathered. The names of some of them, Oxey or Oxhey Mead and Pixey Mead, are old and quaint.

These meadows are divided up into strips which also have remarkable names. On one estate the strips are called "hams" and each bears the name of a craftsman in the original manor which no longer exists, such as Great Steward's Ham, Smith's Ham, and Constable's Ham.

When the time comes, early in July, for the annual division, the holder of the ancient office of meadsman supervises the distribution in this peculiar way.

Some tiny balls made of cherry-wood are placed in a bag or hat. Each one bears the name of a strip of the meadow, and, as the name of those who wish to become tenants for a year are called, a ball is drawn out, often by a child. The name on the ball shows which strip is allotted. The grass on some of the strips is better than on others, and this method ensures that each tenant has an equal chance of a good strip.

## 500,000 lbs of Sugar a Day

PAKISTAN has nearly completed the largest sugar mill in Asia, and it will begin work in the autumn. This sugar mill is at Mardan in West Pakistan, and British engineers have helped to build it. Around the mill there will be great sugar-cane plantations, and output will be considerably more than half a million pounds of sugar every day!

## The Battle Long Ago on London Bridge

EXACTLY five hundred years have passed since the Battle of London Bridge, and if chronicler Edward Hall is to be believed there must have been a lively scene on the bridge all through the night of July 5, 1450.

On the City side were the Royalist troops. There was panic among the King's friends; Henry VI himself had fled to Kenilworth, and a veteran of much experience, Matthew Gough, was put in command by the Mayor and magistrates. He intended to hold his attack until daylight.

The Rebels lay on the south bank at Southwark, though they had already been in the City and done considerable havoc there. Their leader was Jack Cade. At one time he is said to have had over forty thousand men in his company, but their numbers were declining, and so was the discipline.

Cade decided on a night battle. The houses on the bridge were set on fire, and the poor inhabitants literally did not know which way to turn. Some remained indoors and were suffocated; some ran into the roadway and were trampled down by the soldiers; others jumped into the river and were drowned.

All night the battle raged, back and forward over the bridge, each side gaining the advantage in turn, and it was nine o'clock the next morning when "both partes, beyng faynte, wery, and

fatigate, agreed to desist from fight, and to leve battail til the next day, upon condicion that neither Londoners should passe into Southwarke, nor the Kentishmen into London."

The Battle of London Bridge was the climax to a civil disturbance which had been going on for months. Henry VI was unpopular for a number of reasons; he had lost most of our French possessions, and he was ruled by a foreign queen and a selfish set of advisers. The division of opinion which produced the Wars of the Roses was about to appear. People did not relish paying heavy taxes to uphold this government.

The men of Kent had the reputation of being the first to rise up against oppression. It was from Kent, Surrey, and East Sussex that most of those who

rallied to Cade's cause on Blackheath were drawn. Blackheath had also been a meeting-place for John Ball and Wat Tyler.

Cade was a mysterious figure. He passed under a number of different names. He was a man of rebellious temper. Yet when he mustered his forces in 1450 he did it with the genius of a born leader. It was not an unruly mob that he led on London, but a well-trained troop.

The Royalists were outwitted at Blackheath and defeated at Sevenoaks. London was occupied by the Rebels, Cade striking his sword on London Stone (near the present Cannon Street) and calling himself "lord of this city." But after the all-night Battle of London Bridge the Rebel cause fell to pieces. Pardons were offered to Cade's followers if they gave up arms, and all but a few did.

Jack Cade became an outlaw, scurrying away down the Thames in a barge, and being refused admission to one place and another. A reward of a thousand marks was offered for his capture, dead or alive.

The final scene was in East Sussex, a mile or so on the Eastbourne side of Heathfield. Here the Sheriff of Kent, Alexander Iden, caught up with him and slew him, his reward being £266 13s 4d (taken from Cade's confiscated property) and the Governorship of Rochester Castle.

## PREFAB HULLS

A LEADING shipbuilding firm in Sunderland has announced a scheme for the prefabrication of ships' hulls. Seventy-five per cent of the hulls of the ships they build will be prefabricated and ready for assembly before the keels are laid.

This will mean that although three of the shipyard's six berths will be scrapped, the increased speed of construction on the remaining berths will at least equal previous output from all six.

## BARON MUNCHAUSEN—Picture Version of His Astonishing Adventures (2)

The Baron Munchausen was a real person who lived in Germany in the 18th century and entertained his guests with

stories of his extraordinary adventures. He related how as a young man, while out hunting in Ceylon, he found himself

in a desperate dilemma. He was on a narrow ledge with a lion in front of him and a crocodile behind.



The Baron said that at the moment the lion sprang at him, he himself fell flat on the ground. As a result the lion missed him and sprang right over him into the gaping jaws of the crocodile behind, where the lion's head became stuck. Both creatures were equally surprised! The Baron then drew his hunting knife, cut off the lion's head and, pushing it down the crocodile's throat with his musket, suffocated the reptile!



The Baron went on that he had the crocodile stuffed and presented it to the Museum at Amsterdam, "where the exhibitor relates the whole story to each spectator, with such additions as he thinks proper." Some of the variations are rather extravagant, and the little regard this impudent knave has to veracity makes me sometimes apprehensive that my real facts may fall under suspicion."



After this adventure, the Baron said he went on a journey to Russia in winter. The country across which he rode was so deeply covered in snow that he lost his way one evening. No village was to be seen, darkness was falling, and he realised he would have to sleep in the snow. He tethered his horse to what he took to be a pointed tree-stump and then, tired out, he fell asleep in the snow.



When he awoke next morning the snow had gone, and he was astonished to find himself in a churchyard, and to see his horse hanging by its bridle from the steeple. "Matters were now very plain to me," the Baron went on, "a sudden change of weather had taken place. I had sunk down gently with the melting snow, and what I had taken in the dark, to be a tree-stump now proved to be the weathercock of the steeple!"

How did the Baron rescue his horse from its odd position? See next week's instalment







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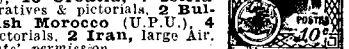
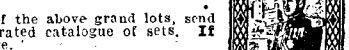
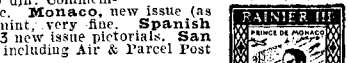
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# The Heart of Robert Bruce

As the result of a gift of more property near Melrose Abbey, in Roxburghshire, it is probable that further excavation will be undertaken there.

When this magnificent ruin was presented to the nation by the Duke of Buccleuch, in 1918, excavations brought to light a leaden casket containing a heart which was believed to be that of Robert Bruce—and there is a strong tradition that it was buried at Melrose.

It is a strange story. On his deathbed Bruce called Sir James Douglas, "the Good," to his side and asked him to carry his heart on a Crusade and take it with him into battle against the Saracens—an opportunity Bruce himself had never had.

Douglas promised to do so and was as good as his word. While fighting against the Saracens in Spain, however, he and his men were surrounded by the enemy. In his peril Douglas took from his neck the silver casket con-

taining the heart and, rising in his stirrups, flung it before him with the cry: "Pass first in fight, as thou wert wont to do; Douglas will follow thee or die." Immediately afterwards he rushed upon the ranks of the Saracens and died fighting gallantly. After the battle the casket was found lying beneath his body, which was brought home for burial.

Melrose Abbey was founded by David I of Scotland in 1136, and several times in its eventful history was ravaged by conquering armies and misguided religious zealots. Sir Walter Scott sung its praises in *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*:

*If thou wouldst view fair Melrose aright,  
Go visit it by the pale moonlight;  
For the gay beams of lightsome day  
Gild, but to flout, the ruins grey...*

# TRAVELLING YOUTH CLUB

A MOBILE youth club has achieved great success in the wild, lonely island of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland.

This club consisted of a motor caravan which, carrying a warden and his wife, toured the island visiting villages every fortnight; and as a result of the inspiration it brought, ten permanent youth clubs have been formed.

Mull figures in R. L. Stevenson's enthralling tale, *Kidnapped*, for it was across this rugged island that the young orphan, David Balfour, made his adventurous way after being shipwrecked.

R. L. S. described the Ross of Mull, the southern peninsula, as "nothing but a jumble of granite rocks and heather in among."

Today it has roads, and we may be sure that the people keep up their fine tradition of Highland hospitality, and must have heartily welcomed the new club.

Its activities are described in the annual report of the Carnegie UK Trust for 1949, which made a grant of £4500 for the work.

## Background to Maps

SHEET "memoirs" consisting of an economic, social, and historical survey of the area, will soon be sold attached to Ordnance maps. Another aid for travellers is announced by the Royal Geographical Society in its new *Hints for Travellers* in three volumes.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Mrs Badger's Lodgers

MRS BADGER was really annoyed when, one summer night, Mrs Fox brought her four cubs and settled down in one of the outlying tunnels of the sett.

"I hate lodgers," grunted Mrs Badger to her husband. "But because we've a huge, rambling home—which has taken generations of our family to dig—any rabbit, or stoat, or mouse turned out of its home thinks it has a perfect right to come and live in one of our spare passages! And now it's foxes! Foxes!" she repeated, her voice going up into a squeak.

Mr Badger's little blue eyes took on a solemn look. "H'm!" he said. "Foxes certainly are dirty and untidy. But perhaps if I just go and glare at them sometimes, that'll do it."

At first they thought it had. But soon the Foxes began to leave bits of food and things about and around the den, so that their part of the sett grew dirtier and dirtier and so untidy! And then, of course, it began to smell.

"It's no good," said Mrs Badger, after she'd changed their own bedding twice to try and make things sweet. "They'll have to go!"

"Suppose we move instead," suggested her husband. "We don't really want to have a row with them, do we? Let's go and live in my brother's cave up in the quarry. I know it's empty because he's off on his holiday rambles now."

So that night, off the Badgers went, travelling through the moonlight and shadow until they reached the quarry, where they settled down very happily.

Then one day Mr Badger came home and said: "D'you know what! Even the Foxes have had to move now because of the dirt and everything! And the Scavenger Beetles are already in, tunnelling away, and covering all the rubbish over."

"So by next spring we can go back and make another nursery!" cried Mrs Badger. "Hurray!"

JANE THORNICROFT



## AIR PACKET FREE



Here is a packet worth having. It includes this stamp depicting **GERMAN PLANE** coming down in **FLAMES** also a large brightly coloured **MAIL PLANE** from Indo-China and a big **JET BOMBER** from Italy. Included also is a fine attractive **AIR** stamp from Mexico, catalogued alone at 10d. This packet should not be missed. It is **FREE** to all requesting Approvals and sending 2d. postage.

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## COLCHESTER'S 1900 YEARS

THIS week the flourishing Essex town of Colchester celebrates its 1900th anniversary.

Camulodunum, as it was called in its early days, was founded in AD 50 by the Emperor Claudius, the first city to be established by the Romans in Britain. Its original citizens were discharged Roman soldiers whose duty it was to spread the Roman rule and way of life.

They built massive walls round their new town, the remains of which today are the most perfect example in England of what a Roman walled town was like. Within those walls grew a city of Roman splendour, and the relics of it which have survived have given Colchester Museum a wealth of Roman possessions of which the proudest is the impressive sculpture of a Roman centurion, seen in our picture. His name was Marcus Favonius, and his monument, which shows him holding his wand of office, was set up by two of his freedmen.

Few places in this country have yielded such treasures of Roman times. The treasure hunt continues, and it is indeed fitting that a feature of the celebrations should be a public demonstration of the excavation of a Roman site.

The one chosen is that of a temple built by the Emperor Claudius; and the archaeologist directing the work, Mrs M. A. Cotton, will explain to visitors the purpose and technique of the excavation. A team of 12 volunteers, all skilled, will work on the site, and onlookers will have the great thrill of seeing the exposure of Roman foundations, and perhaps of valuable objects.

Thus the story of Roman Colchester is still being revealed, but Colchester's story went on dramatically after Rome fell. The East Saxons came, and the Normans, who built the great castle, the keep of which is today one of the most fascinating buildings in this country.

In more recent times Colchester has been famous for roses and oysters; but lovers of the British tradition everywhere will this week be wishing this ancient town "Many more centuries of prosperity."

## Proud Freemen of Coventry

TWENTY-TWO apprentices were recently sworn in as Freemen of the City of Coventry. All apprentices who have been trained in the various trades carried on inside the city boundaries are eligible after completion of their apprenticeship; but before receiving the Freeman's scroll an oath of loyalty as true citizens has to be given.

Some of our greatest industrialists can boast that they are freemen of Coventry.



The Roman Centurion in Colchester Museum

## Young Britons On the Zuyder Zee

ANOTHER Mannö sailing expedition for schoolboys is being led this August by Lieut-Commander Douglas Dixon, who last Easter led a girls' skiing expedition to Arctic Lapland. The boys, aged 12 and upwards, all of whom must be able to swim, assemble at Stavoren in Friesland, on the east side of the Zuyder Zee, and form the crews of a flotilla of yachts. Probably a few Dutch boys will be with them.

Last year 49 boys from 37 schools took part in a similar holiday adventure on the Zuyder Zee. Those who had not done any sailing before learned by going in small sailing boats to explore the lakes, waterways, and villages of Friesland, sometimes camping out on islands or sheltering for the night in the barn of some kindly Dutch farmer.

Others, more experienced, sailed yachts out on the Zuyder Zee, taking it in turns, day by day, to be captains of their vessels.

Good luck to the Mannö lads!

## MUSEUM OF THE FUSILIERS

A NEW museum has been opened in the Tower of London to preserve relics of the history of the Royal Fusiliers, the City of London Regiment.

The collection, which with the books and records provides one of the most minutely documented histories of any regiment, includes the only drum brought back by the Second Battalion from Dunkirk, where a drummer-boy swam out from the beaches to a boat with the drum strapped on his back. There is also the penny notebook in which a subaltern wrote the commendation of the bravery of Private Godley, who won the first VC awarded in the First World War.

## Encouraging Birds to Coventry

COVENTRY ornithologists want a wild bird sanctuary in the village of Baginton, now incorporated within the city boundaries, and it seems likely that they will get their wish when the question comes before the City Council.

Coventry has already a bird sanctuary at Tile Hill, but at Baginton a sanctuary is being sought for birds that frequent marshy ground.

## HE TWICE BOWLED W.G.!

PEOPLE in the little West Suffolk town of Brandon have been mourning a man who, nearly half-a-century ago, made local cricket history by clean bowling Dr W. G. Grace twice in one match. He was James Nicholls Worman, a schoolmaster, and he was a member of the Norfolk County team which in 1903 played a London County side.

In the opening innings "W.G.'s" wicket fell for the third ball of the first over, and in the second it was taken after he had scored 31. As a souvenir of the occasion Mr Worman treasured the ball that did the damage. It was inscribed: "W. G. Grace, bowled Worman 0, bowled Worman 31."

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# THE BRAN TUB

## Beyond Recall

**OPTIMIST:** Do you ever stop to reflect on your missed opportunities?

**Pessimist:** "No; it would be just my luck to miss more while I was reflecting."

## Do You Know That . . . ?

**I**n exposed situations the constant pressure of the wind causes trees to slant towards—and to grow more branches on—the leeward side. In the tundra district of the world trees are sometimes so bent that their trunks lie almost parallel with the ground.

**T**he average height of the pygmies of the Congo basin is less than four feet six inches. **T**he antipodes of New Zealand are not the British Isles, but Spain and southern France.

**S**ome artesian wells in Queensland, Australia, have been sunk to depths of 5000 feet.

**A**ll the planets of the solar system could be contained within the Sun.

## With a Pinch of Salt

**S**AID a fanciful angler named Craddock, "One day I was fishing for had-dock, And caught a sea-horse, Which I took home, of course, For the children to ride in the paddock."

## Mind Your Ps and Qs

**T**his phrase is a warning that we must be careful in what we say or do. There are two very plausible suggestions as to its origin.

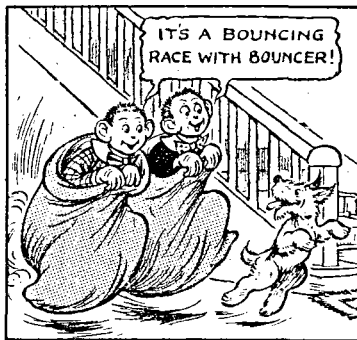
One concerns courtiers of the time of Louis XIV, who had to learn how to make a graceful bow without dislodging their huge wigs. When practising, they were constantly told by their instructors to mind their Pleds (feet) and Queues (wigs).

The second theory is that the phrase originates from country inns where landlords chalked up the number of pints or quarts ordered by customers, Ps denoting pints, and Qs quarts. When the unpaid account began to get lengthy the landlord would say: "Mind your Ps and Qs, sir, please."

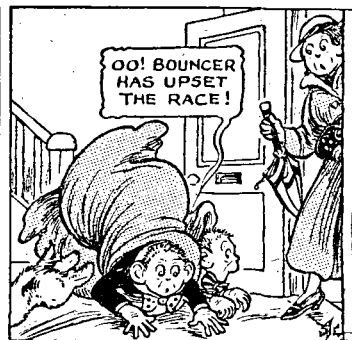
# Jacko And Chimp Are Upset



The two sacks gave Jacko and Chimp an idea for a fine race.



Bouncer was not going to be left out; and he lived up to his name.



But Jacko and Chimp did not bounce when they suddenly met the floor.

## Riddle-My-Name

**M**y first's in see but not in saw;  
**M**y next is in both drag and draw;  
**M**y third's in wait, but not in tarry;  
**M**y fourth is in both bear and carry;  
**M**y fifth's in fir, but not in pine;  
**M**y last's in thread, but not in twine.  
Now choose correctly; you'll have made  
A name, perhaps, for Dr Wade.

Answer next week

## RODDY



"I should think you have to use water-wings to dive from there!"

## A Great Success

**B**ILL had been to a party the day before, and his school chum asked him if he had had a good time.

"I should say so," replied Bill. "Why, I'm not hungry again even now."

## Farmer Gray Explains

**R**ain Befriends the Oak Trees. The day was hot, and the children were glad to enter the Big-woods, where mighty oaks and beeches provided a canopy of green leaves.

"It's better in here," panted Don.

"Yes," agreed his sister Ann, glancing upward. "Not like last year, when all those horrid little green caterpillars were everywhere."

"You have wet weather to thank for their absence," said Farmer Gray, who was with the children. "Among the oak's many insect enemies is the oak-tortrix moth, a small green specimen. Caterpillars of this moth often strip trees entirely of leaves. Wet weather washes the caterpillars away which, of course, benefits the oaks. Birds also help tremendously by eating many of the caterpillars."

## Flies Everywhere

**T**HEY had returned from a camping and fishing holiday.

"Did you fish with flies?" asked a friend.

"Rather," replied the boys. "And camped with them, ate with them, and slept with them, too."

## Poor Percy

**T**o Wimbledon Poor Percy went. To see the stars he was intent. Right to the front he wormed his way, And then relaxed and watched the play. He got his wish, that's true indeed.

For, off the racket, at great speed A ball whizzed into Percy's face— And he "saw stars" all round the place.

## Misplaced Wit

**T**HE teacher told the class that the suffix *stan* means the place of, and gave as an example Hindustan, the place of the Hindus. She asked for other examples.

"Umbrella-stan," quickly replied one bright boy.

## Concise

**T**HIS heading appeared in a newspaper:

**FAULTS MOTORIST DISPUTE CYCLIST FAULTS**

Most readers thought that a mistake had been made in setting the type, but others were able to read it as:

*Dispute between motorist and cyclist with faults on both sides.*

## Birthday Choice

"**W**HAT shall I give you for your birthday, Timothy?" asked Uncle Buster—"3d for each year of my age or a shilling for each year of yours?"

"A shilling for each year of mine, please, Uncle Buster," answered Timothy. Knowing his uncle to be 23 years older than himself, Timothy had quickly calculated that this choice gave him an extra half-crown.

How old is Timothy?

Answer next week

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Dean Swift's Riddle  
The vowels a, e, i, o, u  
Weights and Measures  
Doze, elbow, prompt, galleon, final, cratty.  
Riddle-My-Name  
Sheila (She-lla)

P	O	D	S	A	L	O	N
A	A	R	C	A	W	E	
N	U	T	O	P	I	N	E
S	E	C	T	O	R		
W	E	O	F	E	A	S	
A	C	R	A	T	E	R	
F	R	O	N	D	T	E	A
E	O	N	Z	O	O	I	
R	E	E	V	E	N	O	D



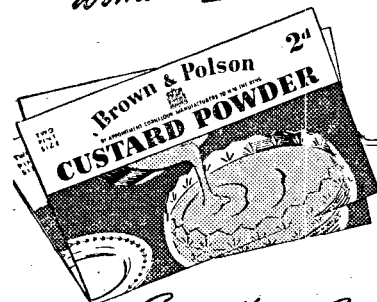
Mmm! What a big size Mars!

Ahh! What a big success!



This big size Mars is outselling every other chocolate bar in Britain. And why? Because it's the same Mars, same fine quality ingredients, same delicious flavour, same 2 points, but... more of it for 5d. No wonder Britain's buying more than four million Mars a week!

*It's extraordinary what women don't know about custard*



Do you know the principal ingredient in custard powders? Six women out of every ten we asked didn't know. The answer, of course, is corn-flour. And as Brown & Polson have been making the world's finest cornflour for over 100 years, you now know why their custard powder makes such smooth pouring, rich and satisfying custard.

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# MARS ARE MARVELLOUS